

## HOUSESTEADS ROMAN FORT, NORTHUMBERLAND

### Hazard information sheet for educational groups

It is the responsibility of teachers and group leaders to complete their own risk assessment prior to their visit. This is usually a requirement by local education authorities. Please do not ask our staff to fill in, check or sign any sections of your risk assessment as they have no responsibility to do so. The following information is intended as a preparatory tool, and does not replace a teacher's or group leader's own risk assessment. Please be aware that conditions at historic sites may change rapidly and you will need to remain alert at all times during your visit.

**Dropping off:** The nearest car park is owned by Northumberland National Park. To reach the pathway up to the fort you may need to pass several parked cars and vehicles entering and leaving the car park. Access up to fort: is via a steep path over land owned by the National Trust. The surface is rough with loose stones and can be muddy and slippery, particularly on descent. Sheep are often grazing. Pupils should be warned of the possible presence of livestock grazing on the site and be reminded not to approach the animals. Droppings may present a zoonotic hazard and risk of slipping. Children should be reminded to wash their hands prior to eating and adults should include wipes in their kits. The area becomes more exposed as you ascend. Sensible footwear and outdoor clothing are necessary.

**Access into fort:** There is a short walk from the museum along a gravel path. Moving around the fort: There are no prescribed routes or set pathways. The sloping nature of the site prevents an overview of the fort and can weaken supervision where pupils are asked to work independently or in small groups. The ground within the fort is grassed, and often slippery. Where worn, these patches can be muddy. There is also wooden decking and steps, which can be slippery, especially during and after wet weather. There are occasional potholes or animal burrows underfoot.

**Fort remains:** The ruinous condition of the fort presents many climbing hazards. Walls are rough and contain uneven and sharp stones. There may be loose masonry where previous visitors have dislodged edging stones. There are unfenced drops in many places, deeper along the curtain wall and inside the latrine block, and steeper, unfenced drops by the north gate. Walking along Hadrian's Wall to and from Housesteads: A path descends sharply from the fort eastwards to Knag Bum. There is no access to this stretch of Wall from inside the fort. A rough path leads west on more demanding terrain, following the line of the Wall towards

**Asbestos:** has been identified on the site this is being managed and monitored by English Heritage. These areas are clearly marked with red stickers. No activities that may disturb the asbestos are permitted; please raise any concerns or accidental damage with the Site Manager immediately.

On-going conservation or maintenance work on site may cause additional temporary hazards. A member of the visitor operations team will advise you of these when you make your planning visit and on the day of your group's visit.

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact our Customer Services department:  
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